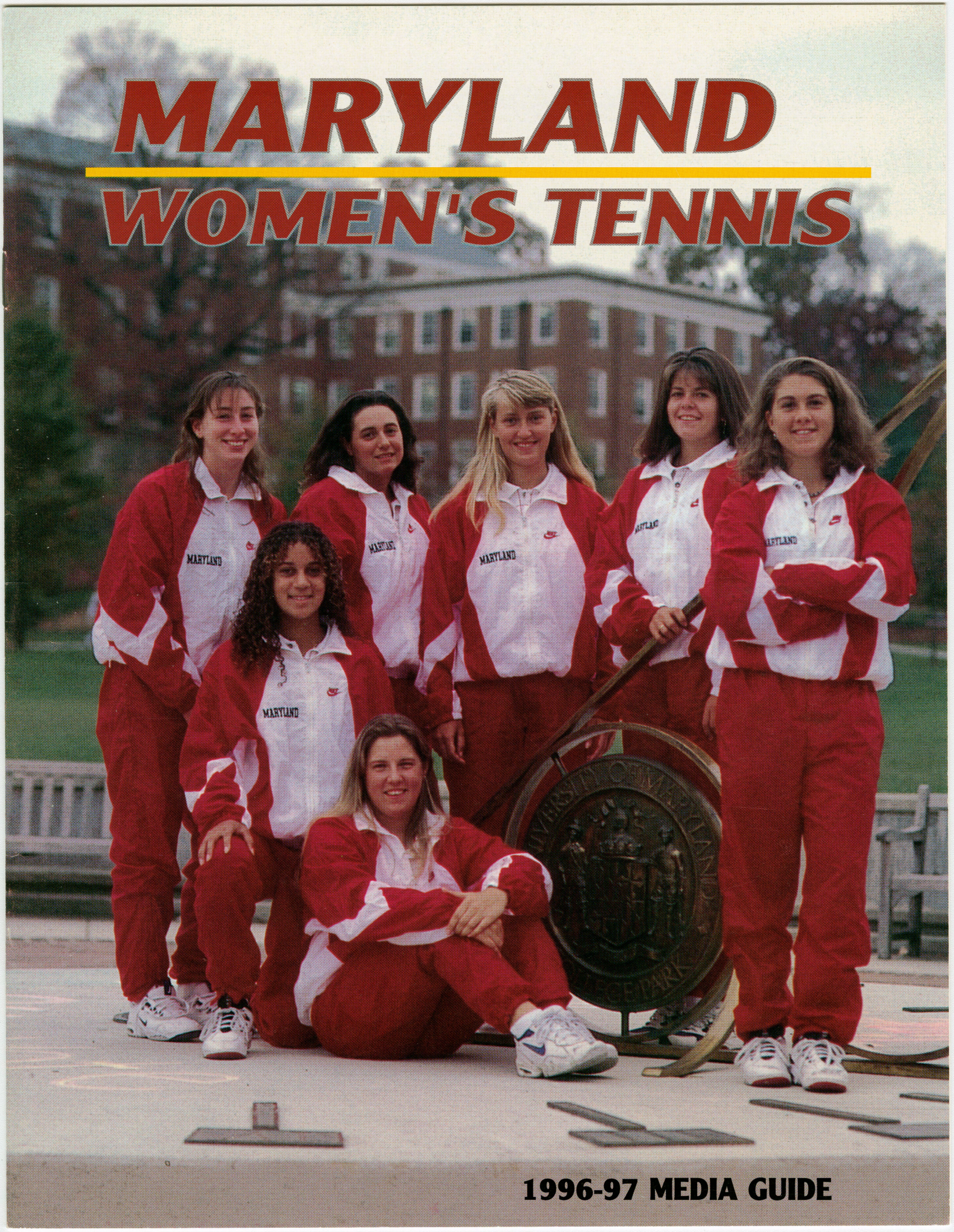
MARYLAND
WOMEN'S TENNIS



1996-97 MEDIA GUIDE

1996-97 MARYLAND WOMEN'S TENNIS

QUICK FACTS

Location: College Park, MD
Enrollment: 24,373 (Undergraduate)
8,535 (Graduate)
Founded: 1807
Colors: Red, White, Black, & Gold
President: William E. Kirwan
Athletic Director: Deborah A. Yow
Nickname: Terrapins/ Terps
Home Facility: Cole Field House Tennis Courts
Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Conference: Atlantic Coast
Media Relations Director: Chuck Walsh
Women's Tennis Contact: Andy Krauss
Media Relations Office Phone: (301) 314-7064
Media Relations FAX Phone: (301) 314-9094
Media Relations Mailing Address: P.O. Box 295, College Park, MD 20741

WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM FACTS

Head Coach: Jim Laitta (Eastern Kentucky '88)
Assistant Coach: Dana Evans (Wake Forest '95)
Associate Coach: Jeremy Loomis (Maryland '93)
1996 Record: 9-9
1996 Conference Record: 4-4 (Tied for fourth)

The 1997 Women's Tennis Media Guide has been prepared by the University of Maryland Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Athletic Media Relations, Cole Field House, College Park, MD, 20741. Written, Edited, and Prepared by Andy Krauss. Layout and design by Tricia Harris, Assistant Director of Athletic Media Relations. Special thanks to Jim Laitta, Blake Starkey, Jeremy Loomis, Brian Hendricks and Jennifer Marx. Cover and photography by Lisa Helfert. Printed by Charlie Guillette of Colonial Lithograph, Attleboro, MA.

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1996-97 MARYLAND TERRAPINS

Kneeling (l to r): Adrienne Pavelko, Meg Griffin, Stacy Walkowitz, Lorraine Bittles.
Standing (l to r): Graduate Assistant Coach Dana Evans, Thea Ivanisevic, Rachael McArdle, Liz Henkin, Head Coach Jim Laitta.

1996-97 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WOMEN'S TENNIS ROSTER

Lorraine Bittles	Fr.	Nashville, Tennessee
Meg Griffin	So.	Topeka, Kansas
Liz Henkin	Sr.	Bethesda, Maryland
Thea Ivanisevic	So.	Claro, Switzerland
Rachael McArdle	Fr.	New Castle, England
Adrienne Pavelko	So.	Vienna, Virginia
Stacy Walkowitz	Fr.	Coral Springs, Florida

1996-97 MARYLAND WOMEN'S TENNIS

1996-97 Outlook

The Terps are looking forward to the 1996-97 season with much anticipation as the team returns four starters from last year's squad in addition to three impact freshmen. Coming off a very successful 1996 campaign, the Terrapins expect to reach greater heights with this year's squad.

Obviously, this is a very exciting time for our program. "I feel we had a very productive fall season as the team made major strides. This team works extremely hard and everyone understands what is going to be involved for us to continue to build upon our success. Everyone on the team has been given a chance to compete against top-notch competition from around the country, and in most every case, we have held our own. Ultimately, the goal is to have Maryland challenging year in and year out for an ACC title and to be recognized as one of the elite programs in the country," said Coach Jim Laitta.

The Terps preseason ranking is 37th nationally in the latest ITA national rankings. In addition, Lorraine Bittles and Thea Ivanisevic are currently ranked No. 73 and No. 79 in the nation. Coach Laitta says, "This year's team is close knit with outstanding chemistry. Although we are very young, I feel we are deeper this year from top to bottom and look forward to the upcoming season with much anticipation."

Laitta says. "My goal is for us to be one of the nationally respected teams year in and year out and to be acknowledged among the elite programs in the country. If we stay healthy and keeping working hard, we should be competitive throughout the upcoming season. We have more depth than ever before," says Coach Laitta, "and although this squad is younger than last year's, our expectations are higher."

There is good reason for the expectations to be higher. The schedule the Terps play will be a tough one. Although the Terps are facing their most ambitious slate of tournaments and opponents to date, they are also coming off their best fall season ever. "Everyone on the team has been competing against top-notch competition from around the country this fall." Laitta says. "I don't know how we are going to respond to what's left of the schedule. I hope our fall performance was an indication.

The Schedule

In 1997, the Terps will challenge many of the nation's premier collegiate programs, including match-ups against 13 nationally-ranked teams, as well as six teams ranked in the top 25. Maryland will host seven home matches during the season. Key ACC home matches will include Clemson on March 18, North Carolina on March 21 and Georgia Tech on March 28. Road matches will feature non-conference road trips to Syracuse where the Terps will face Minnesota and Syracuse University. The Terps will also face non-conference foes William & Mary and Alabama in Williamsburg, Virginia. Spring break will feature a road trip to Tallahassee, Fla., to play Florida State and Illinois.

The ACC Championship will be held in Atlanta, Ga., where the Terps look to finish up strong. Upon completion of the ACC Championship, the Terps will be striving for a second straight NCAA Regional tournament bid.

The Year in Review

One word would adequately describes the Terrapin Women Tennis Team's 1995-96 season: breakthrough. The season was a result of combined talent, hard work, and dedication on the part of the entire team.

The team had more success, and accomplished more "firsts" than any women's tennis team in Maryland history. In only the third year of being a scholarship program, the Terps jumped up four spots to a tie for 4th in the ACC Conference and a NCAA berth as well.

"It was definitely a special team, and a landmark season," says Head Coach Jim Laitta. "We had a blue-collar approach all year long and it reflected our attitude during matches because come match-time, we put everything we had on the court," he said.

The women's team won four ACC matches, the most ever under Laitta to date. They defeated North Carolina for the first time in the program's history, and they did it in Chapel Hill. For the first time in Laitta's term, the Terps defeated not one, but two ranked opponents. On April 7, the Terps defeated North Carolina, who was ranked No. 45 by the ITA/Rolex Collegiate Rankings. Less than a week later, on April 10, the Terps defeated the 43rd ranked Virginia Cavaliers by a score of 5-3 at College Park. Sandwiched between the two victories was a competitive 6-3 loss to 7th ranked Wake Forest in a match where the Terps were tied 3-3 with the Demon Deacons going into the doubles matches.

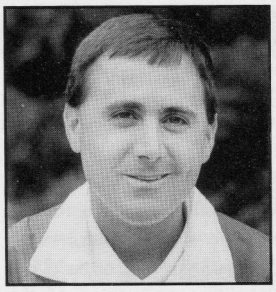
The Terps finished the regular season with a 9-7 record and a 4-4 ACC record. The most exciting part of the season came in the span between March 16 to April 6, when the Terps reeled off six wins in a row, including three ACC matches. The Terps completed the regular season by winning seven of their last nine matches, losing only to second-ranked Duke and 7th ranked Wake Forest.

After the ACC Tournament, where the Terps were defeated by Clemson, the Terrapins achieved yet another milestone as they were invited to the NCAA Regional Championships in Syracuse, New York. Seeded third in the East Region, the Terrapins were upset in the first round by Cornell.

In addition to an outstanding playing season, the team also earned the Academic All-American Team Award for outstanding achievement in the classroom. In order to qualify for this award, a team must have a minimum cumulative team GPA of 3.2 or above.

Jim Laitta was rewarded for the ground-breaking season by being voted ACC Coach of the Year, ITA East Region Coach of the Year, and was one of the finalists for National Coach of the Year.

TERRAPIN COACHES



Jim Laitta
Head Coach

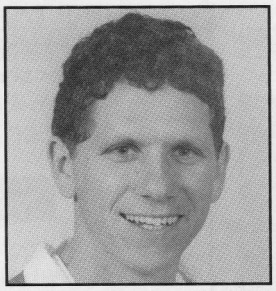
Jim Laitta is entering his seventh year as head coach of the women's tennis team at the University of Maryland. Prior to coming to Maryland, he was the head women's tennis coach at Mississippi State University. While there, the program finished in the national Top 20 and captured an NCAA doubles championship.

Laitta played collegiately at Eastern Kentucky University where he was team captain and played No. 1 singles and doubles. Upon earning his degree in psychology, he competed on the satellite tour. Laitta has coached players at the Junior, collegiate and professional levels and has been successful with all.

Over the past two summers, Laitta coached the Girls' 18 and under Mid-Atlantic Intersectional Team, which competed at the National Sectional Tournament in California. Over the years, Laitta has coached several professionals who have competed in major tournaments such as the U.S. Open and Wimbledon.

The 1996 season was a landmark season for Coach Laitta and his program. He completely turned around the Terrapin tennis program and was named ACC Coach of the Year and NCAA Region I Coach of the Year by his peers. Coach Laitta led his Terps to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history. The Terps finished 9-7 in the regular season with a 4-4 record in the Atlantic Coast Conference, good enough for fourth place tie.

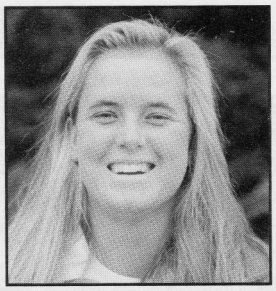
Academics are a high priority to Laitta as well. "To me, it's just as important for my players to do well in the classroom as it is for us to be a top program," Laitta comments.



Jeremy Loomis
Assistant Coach

First year assistant coach Jeremy Loomis brings an immediate asset to this year's women's program. A four-year letterwinner at Maryland, Loomis played No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles for the Terps and was named team Most Valuable Player in his senior year of 1993. Upon completion of his degree, Loomis competed on the pro tour wolrdwide. Currently, he still competes professionally and is ranked by the ATP in doubles. He will be featured at a match in the upcoming Legg Mason Tennis Classic held in Washington, D.C. in July.

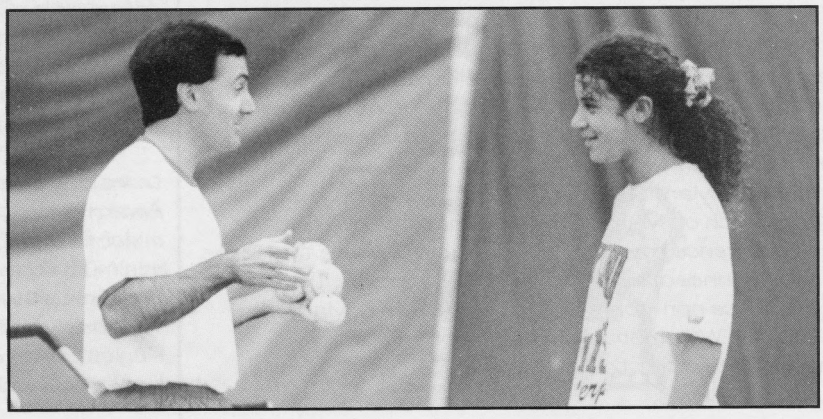
His coaching resume includes working with the Indonesian Davis Cup and Federation Cup teams as well as other top juniors. From 1994 to 1995, he served as assistant coach for the Miami of Ohio men's team. While there, the team won the Mid-American Conference championship. He also earned a masters degree in exercise physiology.



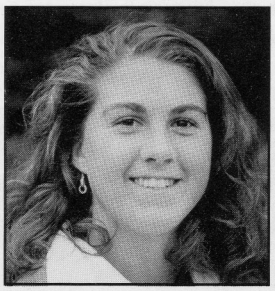
Dana Evans
Graduate Assistant Coach

Dana is in her first season as the graduate assistant coach for the Terrapins. Her duties will entail everything from recruiting to daily practice and administrative duties. Dana graduated in 1995 from Wake Forest, where she was a four-year letterwinner and attained All-American status in doubles. Upon graduation from college, she competed on the women's professional tour for one year and achieved a world ranking in both singles and doubles. Dana is seeking a Master's Degree in Anthropology.

"We are very pleased to have Dana join our staff. She has always been an outstanding competitor and the combination of her experience and success benefits our team in practices as well as in matches," said Laitta.



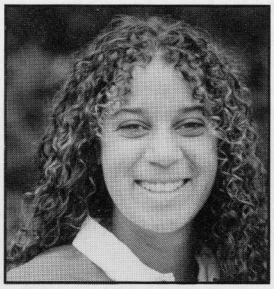
MEET THE TERRAPINS



Lorraine Bittles
Freshman
Nashville, Tennessee
Letters & Science

Lorraine Bittles, a freshman from Nashville, Tenn., promises to be an exciting addition to the Terrapin squad. She had an outstanding fall season and is currently ranked No. 73 in the ITA/Rolex Rankings. She won both the A Flight singles and doubles at the Maryland Invitational. In the singles final, she defeating Carolijn Van Rossum of William & Mary. She then teamed with Meg Griffin to win the doubles title. She had a strong showing at the Florida Gator Invitational where she defeated Florida's Stephanie Nickitas. Lorraine received a ranking of No. 6 in the East, and was the fourth seed at this year's Eastern Region Rolex Championships. At the Rolex Championships she reached the quarterfinals. She and her doubles partner, Meg Griffin, are currently ranked No. 7 in the East region ... Lorraine had an outstanding junior career. She was consistently ranked in the top 3 in the Southern Section, and ranked No, 35 in the nation in her first year of 18's. According to Coach Laitta, Lorraine is an extremely talented all court player whose competitiveness separates her from her opponents ... Hobbies include water skiing, basketball, and playing the guitar.

"Lorraine is having an outstanfing freshman year. She will have an immediate impact in our singles and doubles lineups. She is extremely competitive and mature beyond her years." **- Coach Laitta**



Meg Griffin
Sophomore
Topeka, Kansas
Business

Meg is coming off of a very solid fall season. The highlight of Meg's fall would have to be her performance at the Eastern Region Rolex Championships, where she reached the quarterfinals by knocking off top-seeded Nicole Stranadova of Syracuse. In other action this fall, Meg won three rounds at the William & Mary Invitational, and she and teammate Lorraine Bittles won the A doubles title at the Maryland Invitational. Meg and Lorraine are currently ranked #7 in the East ... last year, she finished runner-up at the #3 spot in the ACC in 1996. Her consistently strong singles play helped the Terps clinch many team matches ... finished no. 1 in the Missouri Valley and 31st nationally in juniors. Her junior titles include the Kansas State High School Championships, the Missouri Valley Sectional Championships and the Cotton Bowl Championships as well as placing 7th at the National Clay Courts in Memphis, Tennessee ... hobbies include biking, roller blading, listening to soft classical music, and needlepoint sewing.

"I look for Meg to be a leader both on and off the court. Meg's aggressive play will be a significant aspect of the Terrapins success this year." - **Coach Laitta**

Thea Ivanisevic
Sophomore
Claro, Switzerland
Business

The highlight of Thea's fall season would have to be her selection into the the main draw of the T. Rowe Price National Intercollegiate Clay Court Championships in Baltimore, Maryland. Thea is currently ranked 79th in the collegiate rankings ... In Thea's freshman year, she was named All-ACC at the No. 1 spot with a 6-3 record; the first Maryland player to achieve such an honor since 1989 ... In the junior ranks, she was twice selected to represent Switzerland in the Continental Cup, which is an international team championships. She has also competed at the Australian open, U.S. Open, and French Open Junior Championships. Her highest ranking in juniors was 35th in the ITF Junior World Rankings and was Top 500 on the WTA Women's Tour ... If the name sounds familiar, Thea's cousin is Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, the former Wimbledon finalist and a top 10 fixture in the ATP rankings ... hobbies include hanging out with friends, going to movies, reading, and attending all Maryland sporting events.

"Thea's ability to become an all-court player will be key for her to move to the next level. Thea's consistent play last year sparked the team to its first NCAA tournament bid." - **Coach Laitta**

MEET THE TERRAPINS

Liz Henkin
Senior
Bethesda, Maryland
English

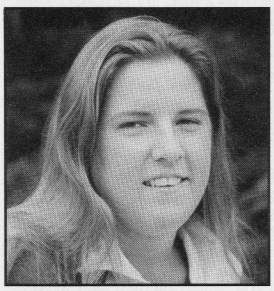
Liz is coming a very successful fall season and is entering her senior year with high expectations. Liz won three rounds at the William & Mary Invitational and got to the semi-finals of both the Maryland and Gator Invitationals this fall. Liz also qualified for the Rolex regional tournament and finished the Fall season with an 11-5 record ... Liz had a very successful junior year as she led the Terrapins in the Spring with a 15-5 record at the No. 5 position as well as being a solid performer at the No. 1 doubles position ... In juniors, Liz was ranked No. 1 in the state of Maryland and No. 6 in the Mid-Atlantic section and was a consistent performer during her junior career ... She currently holds a 3.6 GPA in English ... enjoys jogging, biking, and French gourmet cooking.

"Liz is one of the hardest workers on the team and we're counting on her veteran experience to contribute to a successful year for the team." - **Coach Laitta**

Rachael McArdle
Freshman
New Castle, England
Letters & Science

Rachael comes to Maryland after a successful junior career and is expected to have an immediate impact in the Terrapin line-up. In both singles and doubles, Rachael had a solid fall showing. At the Maryland Invitational, she won the B flight singles championship. She and teammate Stacy Walkowitz paired up to win the B flight doubles championship as well. She competed in the Eastern Region Rolex Championships, losing in the third round to Ivy Wang of Harvard ... Rachael graduated from Bradenton Academy and trained at the Nick Bolleteri Tennis Academy. In juniors, she was ranked top 10 in England and was ranked in the top 750 in the world in the Women's Tennis Association last year. She competed on the satellite circuit this past summer before coming to Maryland ... hobbies include music, reading, kite flying, and bowling

"Rachael is an extremely hard worker who will be an outstanding addition to our team. She is capable of pulling off some impressive wins." - **Coach Laitta**



Adrienne Pavelko
Sophomore
Vienna, Virginia
Chemistry

Adrienne had an up and down fall season but finished on a strong note. She was a semifinalist at the William & Mary Invitational C flight tournament and reached the B Flight doubles semis with Thea Ivanisevic ... As a freshman, Adrienne competed in the No. 4 spot and compiled a 9-8 record ... played a key role in Maryland's victory last spring in North Carolina by winning critical matches in both singles and doubles for the Terrapins ... as a junior player, Adrienne was consistently ranked top 6 in the Mid-Atlantic region and attained a first year 18 and under national ranking of 90. This past summer, Adrienne competed in the ITA Summer Collegiate Circuit as well as attending summer school ... enjoys ping pong, camping, traveling, and scuba diving

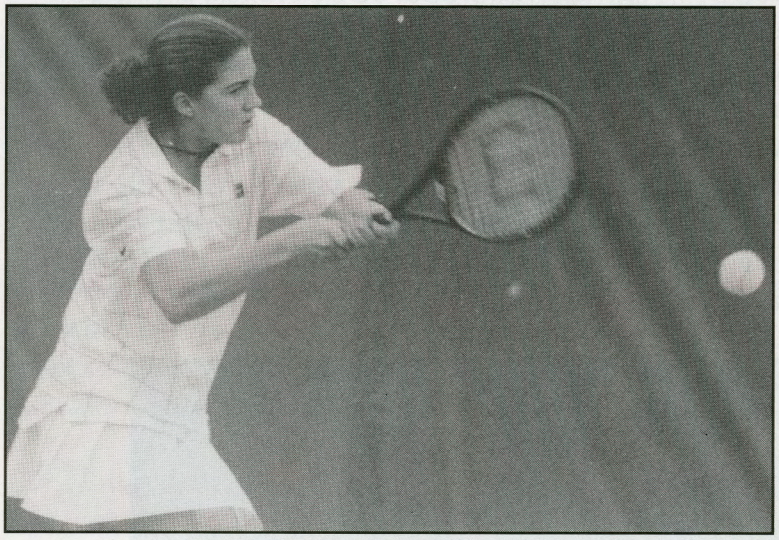
"Adrienne will be looked upon to contribute especially in doubles with her natural serve and volley game and aggressive style." - **Coach Laitta**

Stacy Walkowitz
Freshman
Coral Springs, Florida
Letters & Science

A talented newcomer, Walkowitz comes to Maryland with much promise. She is expected to contribute both at singles and doubles. She paired with teammate Rachael McArdle to win the Maryland Invitational B flight doubles crown. At the Florida Invitational, she advanced to the consolation finals. Coach Laitta feels Stacy is potentially one of the most talented players the Terps have had in a while ... Stacy was consistently ranked top 15 in Florida, and finished 82 in the country in her first year of 18-and-under. Her junior wins include Whitney Dill, Elizabeth O, and Janet Walker ... Enjoys horseback riding, basketball, water sports, reading, and playing with her four German Shepherds.

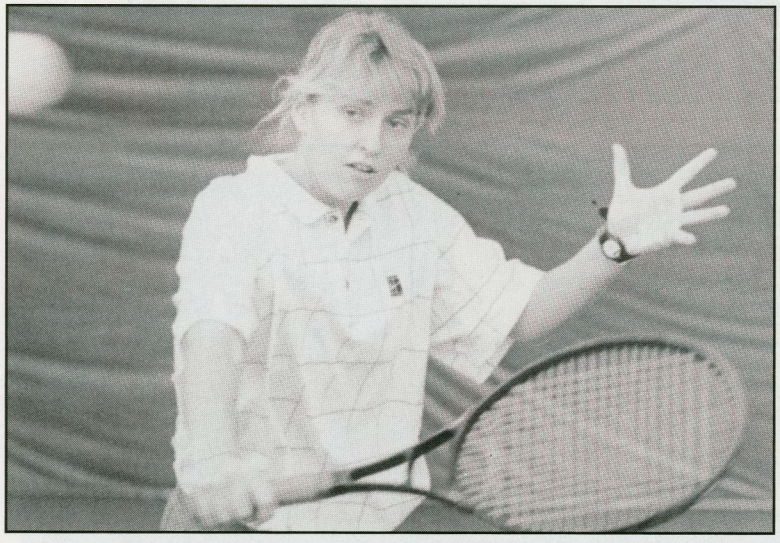
"Stacy posseses a very solid all court game. As the season progresses, I can only see her improving." - **Coach Laitta**

TERPS IN ACTION

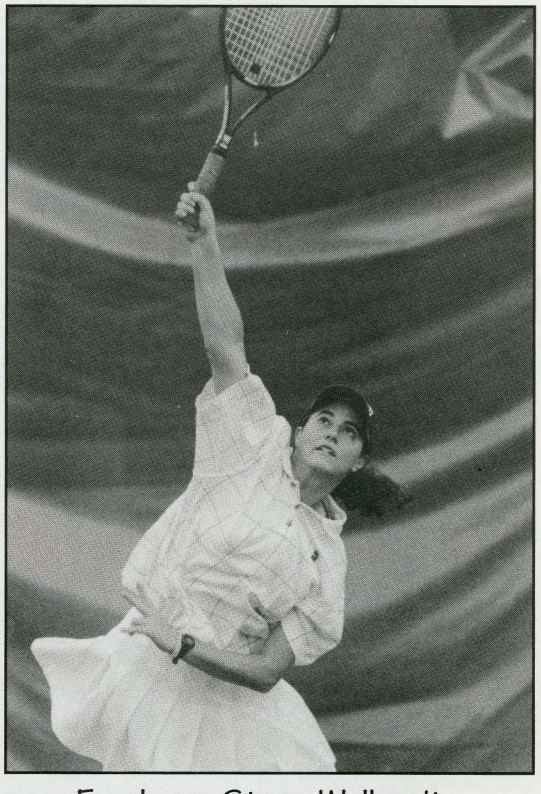


Freshman Lorraine Bittles

Sophomore Adrienne Pavelko



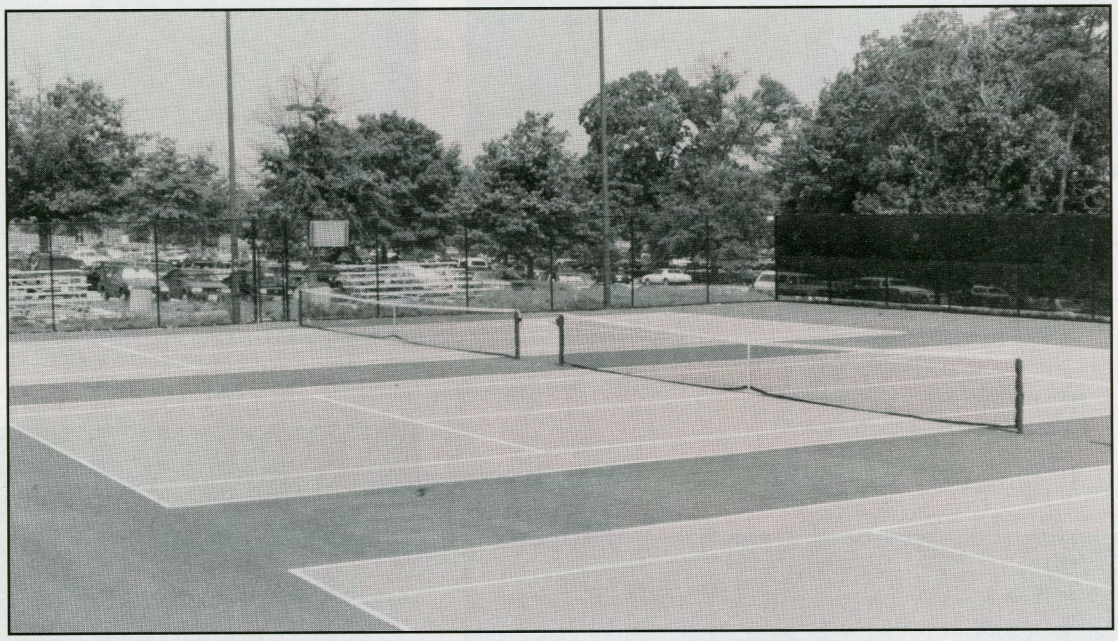
Sophomore Thea Ivanisevic

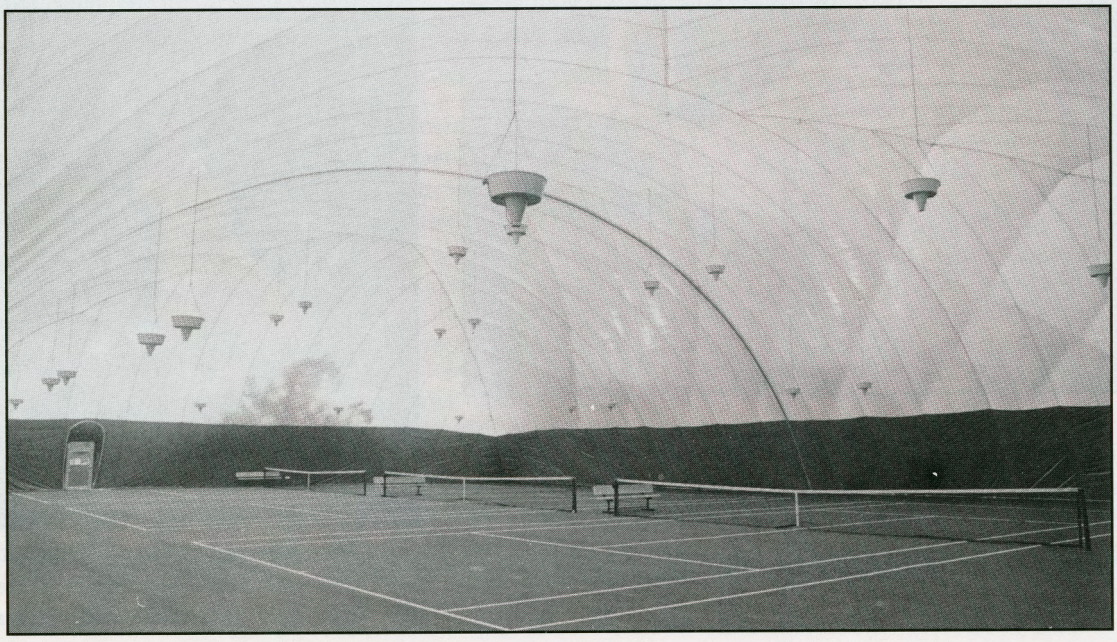


Freshman Stacy Walkowitz

TERRAPIN FACILITIES

Maryland's varsity complex consists of 14 lighted hard courts as well as an indoor tennis bubble which consists of three courts. The outdoor complex is located right beside Cole Field House and has an excellent view of the newly-renovated Byrd Stadium. During the summers, the outdoor complex hosts the World International Junior Hardcourt Championships, the USTA Circuit of College Park, and numerous USTA Mid-Atlantic Junior and Adult events. These tournaments bring top talent not only from the United States, but from all around the world. The Terps use a state-of-the-art weight training facility and have a professional training staff that monitors the in-season and out-of-season training regiment.





ACADEMIC SERVICES

A successful student almost always equates to a successful athlete. The commitment to academic excellence requires discipline and dedication, and motivation. These are the same characteristics needed for an athlete to excel on the courts. Striving for excellence is not just something that the University of Maryland student-athletes do on the field or on the courts.

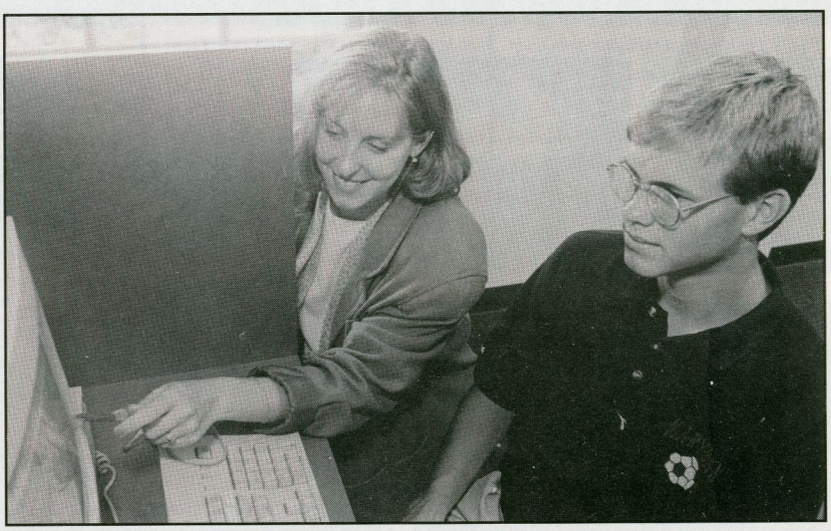
The University of Maryland emphasizes the importance of academics in the student-athletes' lives on campus. Striving for success in both the classroom and on the courts, the athletic department created a program intended to offer both personal and academic development to student-athletes- the Academic Support Unit. Each ASU staff member is responsible for working with specific sports, counseling each student-athlete individually.

Dr. Javaunne Adams-Gaston, educator and clinical psychologist is the Director of Athletic Student Services. She oversees the student-athletes' educational well being by her management of the Academic Support Unit. She is assisted by John Bowman, Don Pearman and Heather Lowe.

In addition to individual academic counseling, each member of the ASU serves the department in other capacities. The staff operates a technological computer room, where student-athletes gain hands-on experience with computer software and hardware systems. The ASU also runs a comprehensive bookroom in which student-athletes can find various text books they will utilize during their undergraduate years.

Over 100 tutors in the ASU assist student-athletes in all areas of study. Student-athletes have the opportunity to receive one-on-one training in any class necessary.

Heather Lowe
Academic Counselor



Lowe helps out a student-athlete

Picture a university so comprehensive that it offers degrees in 98 disciplines, so technologically advanced that it manages specially-designed research facilities not found on any other campus in the country and boasts a telecommunications system which serves as a model for universities worldwide. And, at the same time, it is a university concerned enough to include special housing matched to student interests and to ensure that half of all undergraduate classes have fewer than 30 students.

That's a snapshot of the University of Maryland at College Park, the flagship institution of Maryland's system of higher education.

A trip through Maryland's athletic history reveals a deep tradition of competitiveness and of years that feature national championships, many Atlantic Coast Conference titles and some of the game's richest characters in athletics.

A trip across College Park reveals a university changed remarkably in the 1990's. Almost a half-billion dollars worth of construction has recently taken place or is on-going. A campus already known for its beauty is getting better.

A trip across the state of Maryland reveals deep tradition, too. Washington, D.C.'s monuments and national historic treasures are just miles away, and the building housing the nation's archives is on campus. Historic sites in Baltimore have Edgar Alan Poe and Babe Ruth's name on them, and Annapolis has witnessed much of the nation's history.

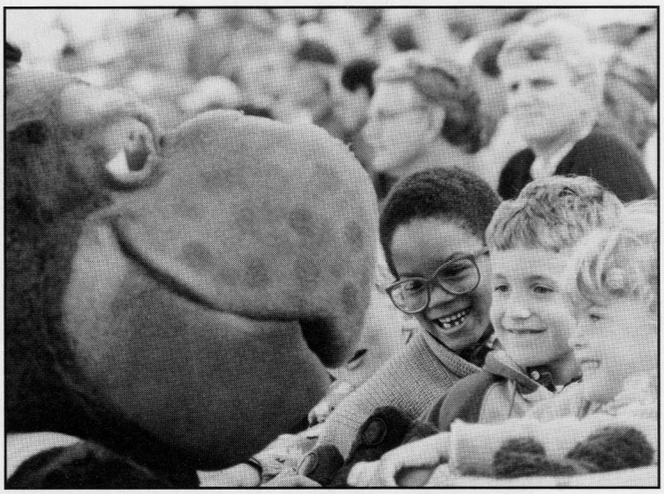
Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Annapolis's waterways lead into the Chesapeake Bay, with room for thousands of sailboats. There is the Atlantic Ocean on the state's eastern shore; its western boundaries are ringed by the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains.

So take a trip to College Park for a tennis match, a trip to see a campus reaching for excellence or maybe even a trip just to see how beautiful the state is that bear our name.

Academic Stature: One of only 30 public research universities in the prestigious 58-member Association of American Universities; among fewer than 10 percent of universities invited Phi Beta Kappa.

Dramatic Moments: Find them in the 1,350 seat Tawes Theater, the stage or major theatrical productions and special event. Under construction is a brand new center for the performing arts which will accommodate many more performances and spectators.

Getting There: The MARC train offers public transportation from College Park to Baltimore's Camden Station, next to Oriole Park at Camden Yards and near the Inner Harbor. The highly efficient Metro system puts the Suburban Maryland, District of Columbia and Northern Virginia areas a rapid transit system ride away from College Park.



Journalist's Pick: The College of Journalism was selected as one of two sites in the U.S. for the Hubert H. Humphery Fellowship Program, and named one of the nations' top communications programs by the Gannett Center for Media Studies.

Library Holdings: Largest academic research library system in the Washington metropolitan area. There are 2.8 million volumes in libraries and 4.6 million items on microfilm.

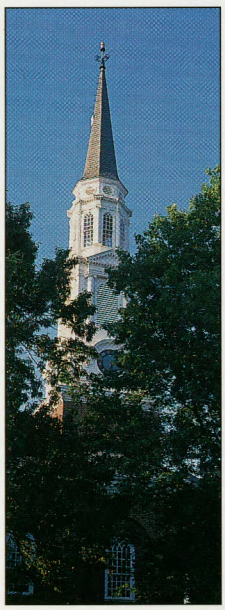
***U.S. News and World Report* Finds:** The Department of Computer Science ranks 12th in the nation, beating three Ivy League schools, and the Department of Physics is 13th best, ahead of UCLA and Pennsylvania, among others. The College of Business and Management is considered 14th in student selectivity.

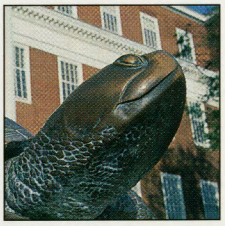
Nationally Noted: A dozen academic departments and programs at College Park are placed in top 10 among U.S. public universities by the National Academy of Sciences.

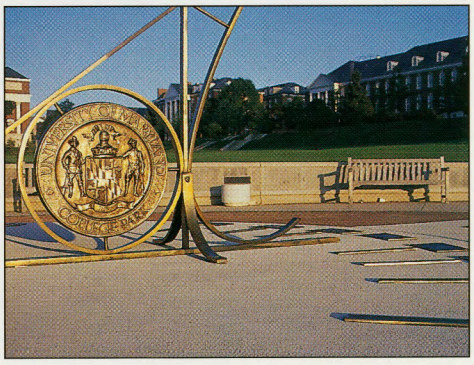
Neighbors: Campus neighbors include the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institutions, the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center. On Campus is National Archives II.

On the Drawing Board: $36 million campus recreation center and $100 million Center for Performing Arts will soon enhance the campus.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 1856







MARYLAND WOMEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE
1996-97

FALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
20-22	William & Mary Invitational @ Williamsburg, VA	
26-29	ITA National Clay Courts @ Baltimore, MD	
27-29	Maryland Invitational @ College Park, MD	
OCTOBER		
24-27	Riviera Women's All-American @ Pacific Palisades, CA	
25-27	Florida Invitational @ Gainesville, FL	
NOVEMBER		
7-10	Eastern Rolex Championships	

SPRING SCHEDULE

JANUARY		
23-26	ACC Indoor Championships @ Chapel Hill, NC	All Day
23-26	Georgia Invitational @ Athens, GA	All Day
FEBRUARY		
1	WEST VIRGINIA	1:00 PM
2	GEORGETOWN	1:30 PM
8	VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH	2:00 PM
14	@ William & Mary	4:00 PM
15	Alabama @ Williamsburg, VA	1:00 PM
MARCH		
1	Minnesota @ Syracuse, NY	1:00 PM
2	@ Syracuse	11:00 AM
18	CLEMSON	2:00 PM
21	NORTH CAROLINA	2:00 PM
23	@ Wake Forest	12:00 PM
25	@ Florida State	1:00 PM
26	Illinois @ Tallahassee, FL	11:00 AM
28	GEORGIA TECH	2:00 PM
APRIL		
5	@ N.C. State	12:00 PM
6	@ Duke	12:00 PM
9	@ Virginia	2:30 PM
12	GEORGE WASHINGTON	1:00 PM
13	Harvard @ Williamsburg, VA	12:00 PM
17-20	ACC Championships @ Atlanta, GA	All Day
MAY		
2-4	NCAA Regionals @ Syracuse, NY	All Day
17-24	NCAA Championships @ Palo Alto, CA	All Day